

September 19, 1983, p. 1

9 AM - 1 PM - I wrote down pages 4-9 of the September 17 entry in this account of my life; also pages 1-9 of the September 18 entry. As I did so, WVIA has been on and such pleasure it has given me: Three-Cornered Hat (complete), Daphne et Chloé (complete), the Dvorak Violin Concerto and much more. Now I must go to the NEWS and work on the final production of this week's issue of the paper.

Community News

Scranton Times,

Friday, September 16, 1983 — Page 10



Parishioners of Berean Baptist Church in Carbondale will celebrate a "Day of Joy and Gladness" Sunday in observation of the early repayment of a mortgage taken to rebuild the church structure. The church had been nearly

destroyed by fire 15 years ago. It was rebuilt and rededicated Sept. 13, 1970. In a touch of irony, a brief fire — to burn the mortgage — will highlight the ceremonies. (Times Photo by Ros-Al)

Berean Baptist Church To Burn Mortgage on Rebuilt Structure

By JERRY PALKO
Upvalley Bureau Chief

Carbondale — On a Wednesday 135 years ago, seven Carbondale followers of the Baptist faith established a place of worship on a piece of ground on Church Street between St. Rose of Lima and First United Methodist churches. A new building was later erected on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and North Church Street. It was called Berean Baptist Church.

On a Wednesday 15 years ago, a fire originating in a nearby building gutted the inside of the beautiful stone church.

On Sunday, the events of those two Wednesdays of years gone by will be

marked with special ceremonies in a full day of "Joy and Gladness."

No one survives to recall first-hand the events surrounding the establishment of the church and details of that occasion must be found in old records. But most parishioners — indeed, most Carbondaleans — remember that Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 21, 1968, when a fire which began in an adjacent bakery spread to engulf the classical Romanesque Revival structure whose cornerstone was laid in 1838 and which was dedicated a year later.

Despite efforts by city firefighters, the historic church was all but destroyed. Only the stone walls remained.

Seven days later parishioners got together and decided to rebuild the church and in Sept. 13, 1970, the task was completed and the new church dedicated.

It had cost \$365,000 and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. the mortgage which financed that rebuilding effort and which has been paid off three years before its due date will be publicly burnt.

Participating in the mortgage burning with the Rev. Dr. Claude Pullis, pastor, church officials, and other parishioners will be the Rev. Arthur W. Meneely, former pastor. This will be a public ceremony and everyone in the city who participated in the rebuilding effort may attend.

The "Day of Joy and Gladness" will begin at 11 a.m. with a communion service. At 12:30 p.m., there will be a catered dinner in the church social rooms.

Dinner tickets are available from committee members.

The committee in charge of the mortgage burning and 135th anniversary celebration is chaired by W. Uriah Carey and Garfield Thomas.

Not only will the day reaffirm the faith of the parishioners whose forefathers established the place of worship but it will reaffirm the commitment to the faith of the parishioners in rebuilding their church after tragedy struck that day a decade and a half ago.

The News, the Tribune, and the Times all did a story on the BBC activities on the 18th of September. An announcement was also in the Community Calendar in the News of 9/14/83. I was responsible for all of those articles. As publicity director for the day's events, I did my job well, very well.